

X-MEN®

ISSUE 206



RATED T+



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MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter nine

CAREY

MARVEL

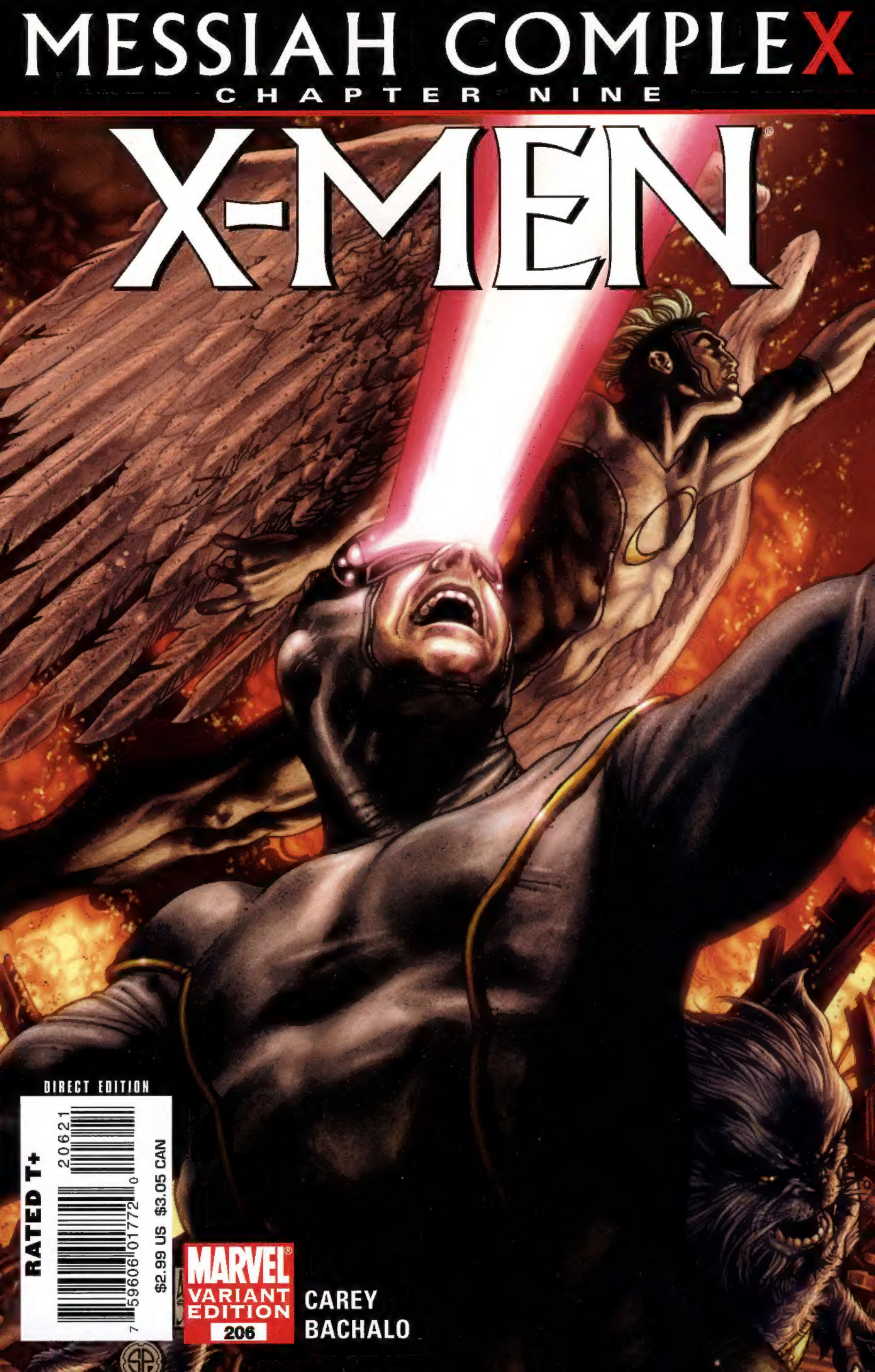
BACHALO

DIRECT EDITION

MESSIAH COMPLEX^X

CHAPTER NINE

X-MEN[®]



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MARVEL[®]
VARIANT
EDITION
206

CAREY
BACHALO

After M-Day, mutantkind neared extinction. Once hailed as humanity's replacement, it appeared mutants, now reduced to a few hundred, would fade into oblivion. But a new mutant baby has arrived, the first since M-Day, and with it, hope for mutantkind.

Previously in MESSIAH COMPLEX...

The rogue X-Man Cable has kidnapped the mutant baby. Unsure of Cable's motives, X-Men leader Cyclops took the desperate measure of activating X-Force, his covert squad of black-ops mutants. Their mission: recapture the child by any means necessary. But X-Force wasn't the only group on Cable's trail. The mutant-hating Reavers made it to Cable first.

The ensuing fight not only led to X-Man Caliban's death, but the escape of Cable and the baby.

Meanwhile Layla Miller and one of the duplicates of Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man, are stranded in the future. Their search for the secrets of the mutant baby have led them to a world where mutants are interred in detention camps. Now, Layla and Jamie are under arrest and their hopes of completing their mission appear bleak.

CHAPTER NINE:

Mike Carey: *Writer*

Chris Bachalo: *Penciler*

Tim Townsend and Jon Sibal: *Inker*

Brian Reber: *Colorist*

Cory Petit: *Letterer*

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Axel Alonso: *Executive Editor*

Joe Quesada: *Editor in Chief*

Dan Buckley: *Publisher*

Cover A by: David Finch & Morry Hollowell

Cover B by: Simones Bianchi & Peruzzi

**SHEEPSHEAD BAY, NEW YORK
MUTANT RELOCATION CAMP.
80 YEARS FROM NOW.**



HOLD 'IM STILL!

I'VE STILL GOT THE SHAKES FROM THAT LOUSY CUBAN RUM FRANK WAS SLINGIN' LAST NIGHT.

SO WHAT'D FRANK SAY ABOUT THAT WARNING NOTICE?

TOLD 'EM THEY CAN GO SCRAP THEIRSELVES. LIKE THEY GOT PEOPLE LININ' UP FOR THAT LOCKIN' SHIFT, Y'KNOW?



NNNF!



YOU GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY, MUTIE?

NO.

NO IS RIGHT.



ANYWAY, FRANK'S A TOOL. HE WAS GIVIN' THAT LITTLE GAL OF HIS IN HUT SIX EXTRA RATIONS. AND I ALREADY TOLD 'IM, RIGHT?

BREAK A FEW MUTIE HEADS HERE AND THERE, NOBODY CARES.



IT'S ONLY IF YOU GET KISSY-KISSY WITH 'EM THAT YOU GET A REPRIMAND.





THIS ONE'S
KIND OF CHATTY,
AIN'T HE?

UFFF!

KEEPIN' US
ALL ENTERTAINED.
OH, YOU READY FOR
THE YARD NOW,
SCRAPPER.



NO. HE'S
READY FOR
ME.

MARKER
WHITMAN.

UH--
ANYTHING I
CAN GET FOR
YOU, SIR?



BLESS
YOU, SON. NO
THANKS.

I GOT
EVERYTHING
I NEED RIGHT
HERE.

**ALBERTA,
CANADA, NOW.**



COORDINATES,
EMMA.

THREE DEGREES
LEFT OF ARC, TWO
THOUSAND METERS.

BUT THERE'S NO
NEED TO HURRY,
SCOTT.

THE
BATTLE'S OVER,
AND CABLE'S
GONE.

WE'RE
TOO LATE.



"NOW--

"--DO YOU
WANT THE
BAD NEWS?"



NO!

THERE IS NO PULSE.

HE'S NOT DEAD!

HE IS.

JAMES, IT IS DEATH ANY OF US WOULD WANT.

IN BATTLE, WITH FRIENDS, FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING THAT MATTERS.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, HEPZIBAH!

CAL DIED TO SAVE ME, AND I CAN'T PAY HIM BACK.

I CAN'T MAKE IT RIGHT. CAN'T BALANCE IT--EVER.

ARRHHHH!

LOGAN, BRING ME UP TO DATE.

FEEL LIKE MOURNING THE DEAD, SUMMERS?

WE'LL MOURN CALIBAN--AND HONOR HIM--LATER. TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED HERE.



WHAT YOU SEE, WE MET THE ENEMY. WE DID THEM HARM.

BUT CABLE GOT AWAY IN OUR OWN DAMN TRANSPORT. IT WAS MY FAULT. HE PLAYED US.

IT WAS NO ONE'S FAULT. YOU HAD TO STOP THE BABY FROM BEING KILLED.

THAT'S WHAT CABLE WAS DOING, TOO. HE WAS PROTECTING IT.



BOBBY, ARE YOU GETTING ANYTHING FROM BLACKBIRD ONE?



NOTHING ON THE BOARD, SCOTT. BUT CABLE KNEW THAT JET WAS FITTED WITH A LOCATOR.

MAKES SENSE THAT HE'D DEACTIVATE IT BEFORE HE EVEN STRAPPED IN.




AND HE'S STILL BLINDSIDING YOU TELEPATHICALLY?

SO FAR, I'M GETTING A FAINT PSI-ECHO, BUT IT'S TOO WEAK TO GIVE ME A DIRECTION.

HE'S HEADING SOUTH.


EVER SINCE HE LEFT COOPERSTOWN, HE'S BEEN MOVING IN A STRAIGHT LINE, SOUTH, AND A LITTLE EAST.

WE FOLLOW THAT LINE, WE'LL FIND HIM AT THE END OF IT.




IT'S A WIDE
TARGET, BUT IT'LL
DO FOR NOW. WE'LL
NARROW IT DOWN
ONCE WE'RE IN
THE AIR.

GUIDO,
WARPATH, PUT
CALIBAN'S BODY IN
THE AFT STORAGE
LOCKER.



AND
DO IT WITH
RESPECT.

HE
DIED AN
X-MAN.



NARROW
IT DOWN
HOW?

THE ONLY
WAY WE FOUND
HIM THIS TIME WAS
WITH CALIBAN'S
POWER.

I KNOW
THAT.

"I'VE GOT
SOMETHING
ELSE IN MIND."

YEAH.

YEAH,
THIS ALL MAKES
SENSE.

**XAVIER
INSTITUTE.**

YOU'RE
BLUFFING. CEREBRA
IS DEEP-FRIED.
THERE'S NO WAY
YOU CAN FIX IT.

I'M NOT
BLUFFING.

HE'S NOT
BLUFFING.

WE GAVE DAVID ALLEYNE
FULL ACCESS TO ALL THE
SKILLS HE ACQUIRED
AS PRODIGY.

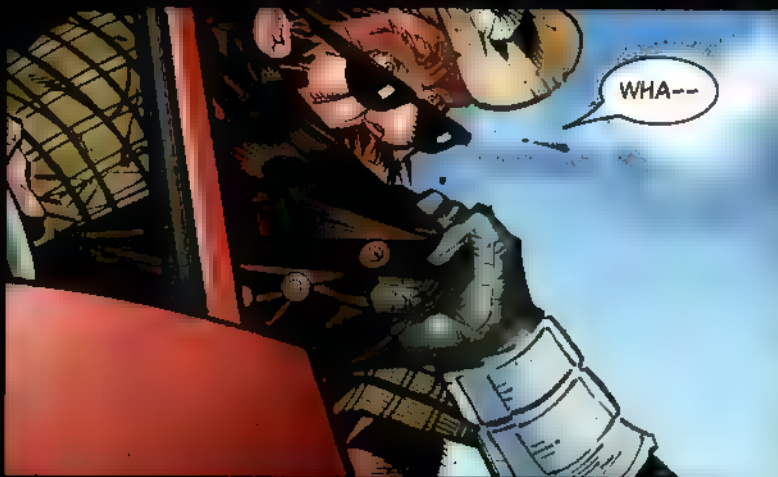
HIS MIND HAS A
REALLY INTERESTING
STRUCTURE.

BUT WE'VE
TRIED BOYS.
BOYS ARE
TROUBLE.

PASS ME THE
SOLDERING IRON,
CESS. AND THE
THREE-EIGHTHS
GRIPLEY.

AND CUCKOOS,
YOU'RE NOT
EVEN MY
TYPE.

UNLESS
YOU'VE BEEN
MESSING WITH
MY WIRING.



THE FUTURE.

YEARCHHHHHHHH

HURTS LIKE HELL, DON'T IT, SON? BUT THE NERVES HAVE TO BE AWAKE TO MAKE THE NEURAL BOND WORK.

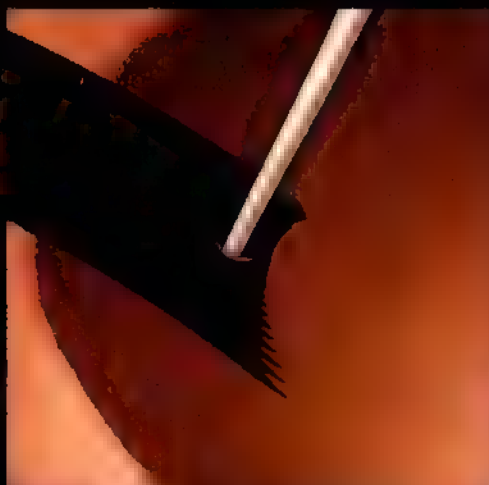
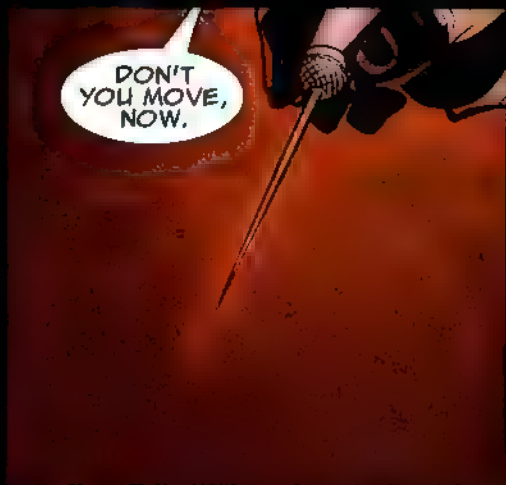
CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ANESTHETIC, OR IT WON'T CATALYZE PROPERLY.

THE PIGMENT'S ACTUALLY ALIVE, Y'SEE. IT'S A VIRUS CALLED CCZZZA.

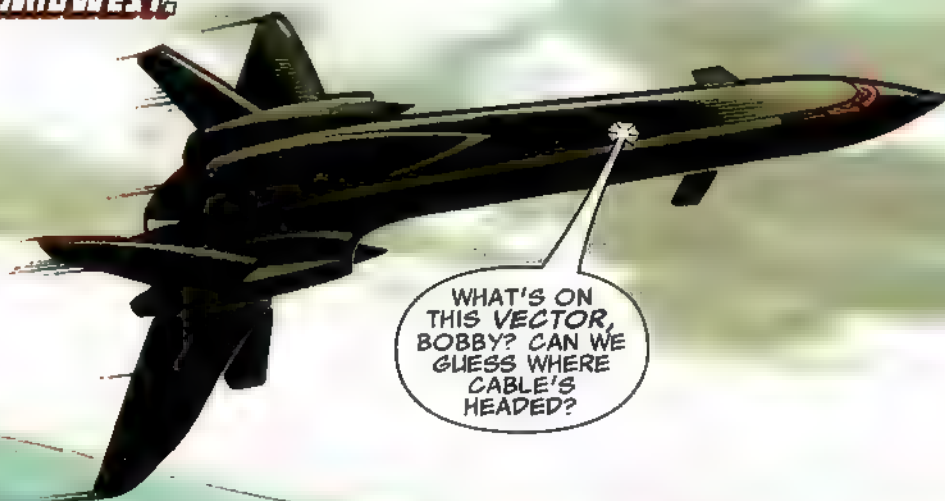
MY NEEDLES DON'T JUST WRITE ON YOUR SKIN. THEY WRITE ON YOUR DNA.

YOU'RE GONNA BEAR THIS MARK FOREVER.

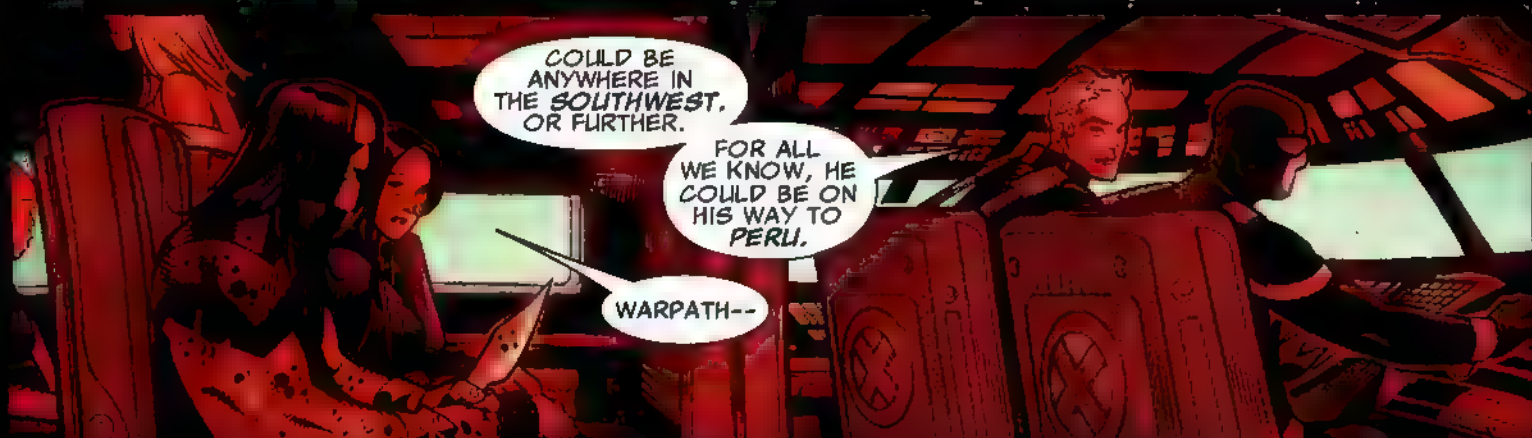
MIGHT AS WELL MAKE YOUR PEACE WITH IT.



**SOMEWHERE OVER THE MIDWEST,
NOW.**



WHAT'S ON
THIS VECTOR,
BOBBY? CAN WE
GUESS WHERE
CABLE'S
HEADED?



COULD BE
ANYWHERE IN
THE SOUTHWEST,
OR FURTHER.

FOR ALL
WE KNOW, HE
COULD BE ON
HIS WAY TO
PERU.

WARPATH--



LEAVE IT,
MONET. I'M NOT
IN THE MOOD.

I KNOW.
I'M PICKING
UP YOUR
THOUGHTS.

LET 'EM
LIE.

THEY'RE
NONE OF YOUR
CONCERN.

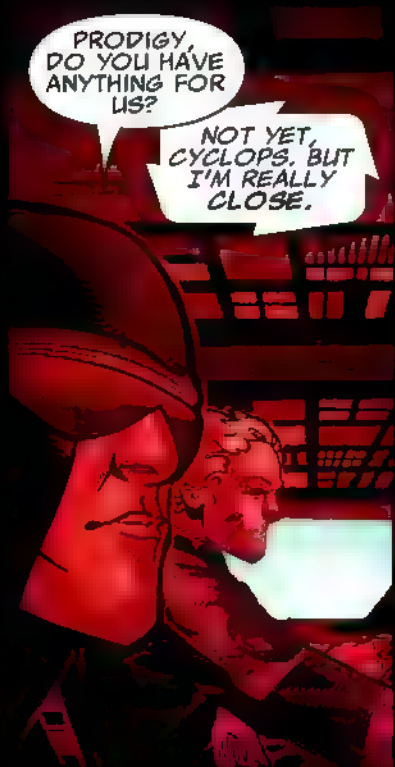
BELIEVE
ME, IF THERE
WERE ANY WAY
OF SHUTTING
THEM OUT, I
WOULD.

CYCLOPS MEANT WHAT
HE SAID. CALIBAN WILL
GET A DECENT BURIAL AS
SOON AS WE'RE DONE
WITH THIS.



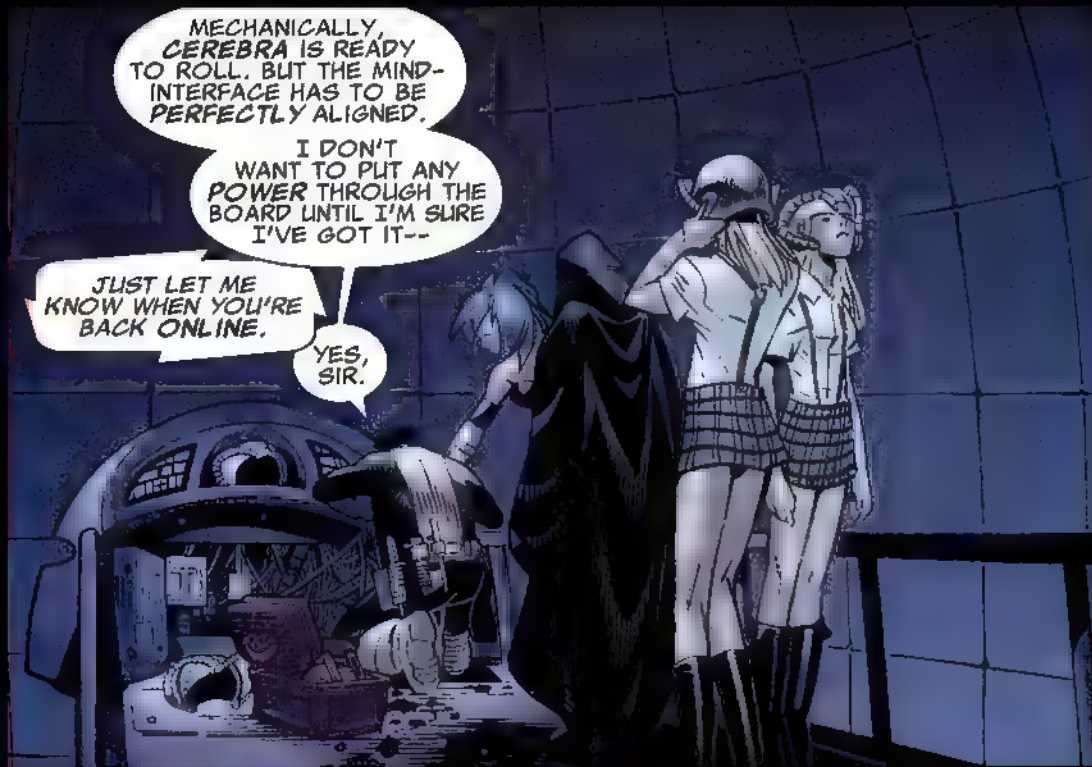
BE A LOT
MORE PEOPLE
NEED BURYIN'
BY THEN.

TRUST
ME.



PRODIGY,
DO YOU HAVE
ANYTHING FOR
US?

NOT YET,
CYCLOPS. BUT
I'M REALLY
CLOSE.

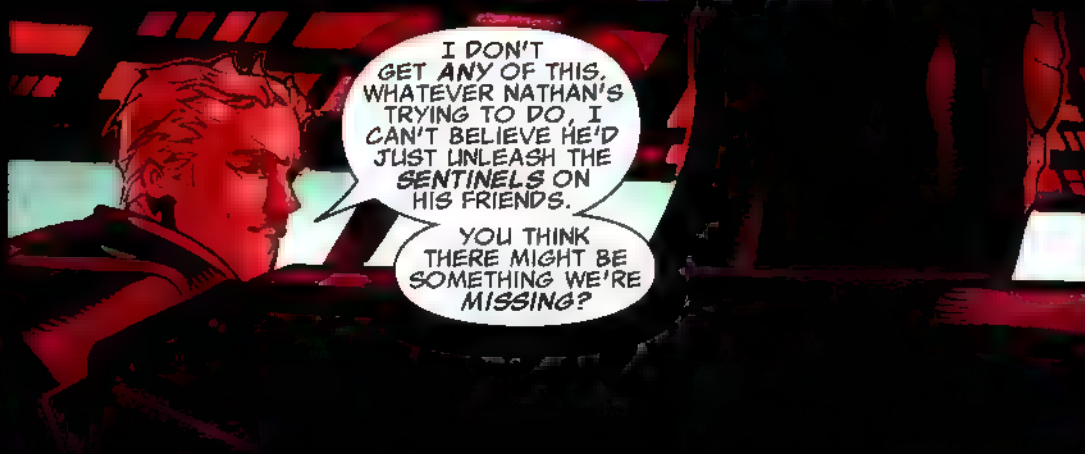


MECHANICALLY,
CEREBRA IS READY
TO ROLL. BUT THE MIND-
INTERFACE HAS TO BE
PERFECTLY ALIGNED.

I DON'T
WANT TO PUT ANY
POWER THROUGH THE
BOARD UNTIL I'M SURE
I'VE GOT IT--

JUST LET ME
KNOW WHEN YOU'RE
BACK ONLINE.

YES,
SIR.



I DON'T
GET ANY OF THIS.
WHATEVER NATHAN'S
TRYING TO DO, I
CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D
JUST UNLEASH THE
SENTINELS ON
HIS FRIENDS.

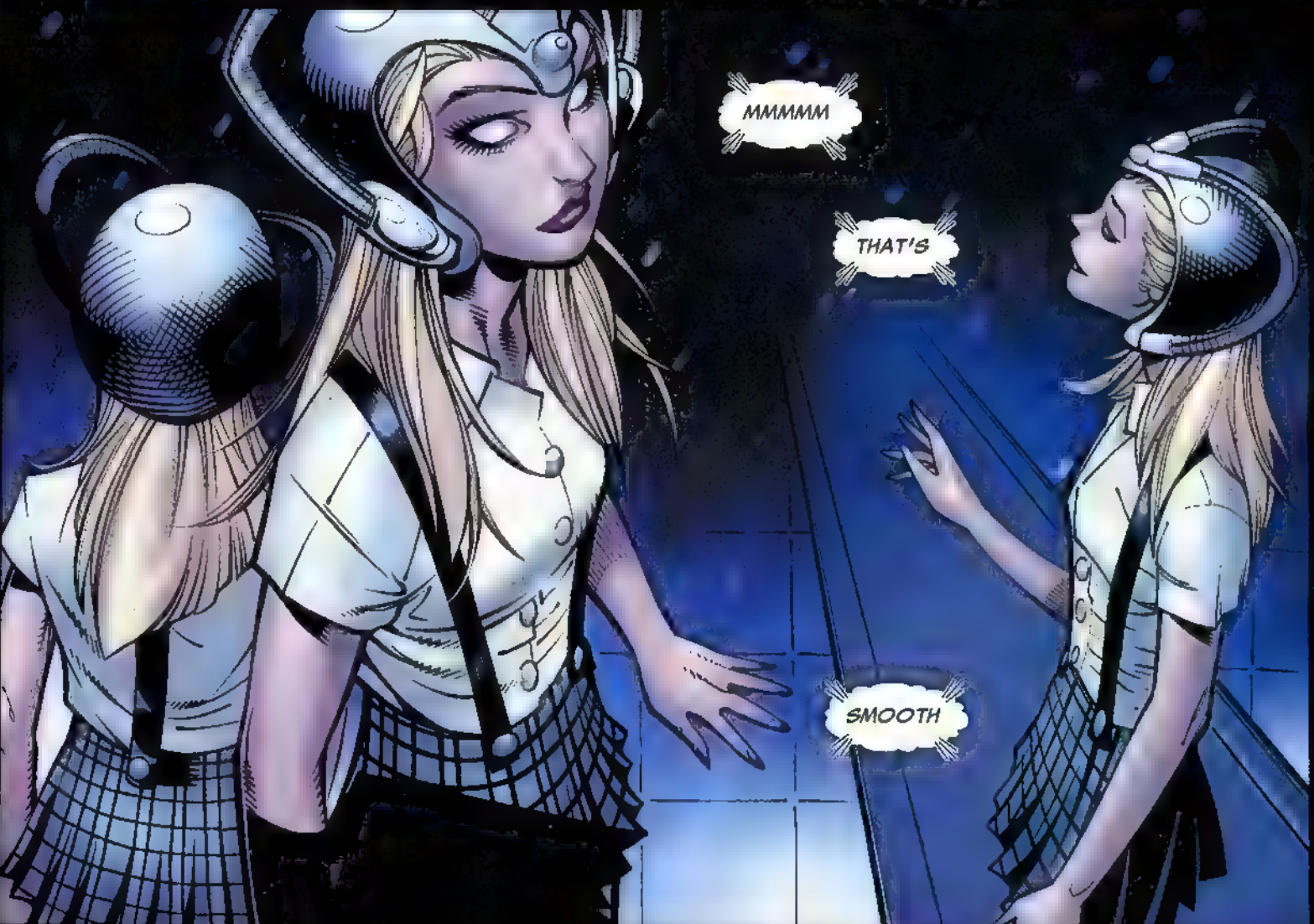
YOU THINK
THERE MIGHT BE
SOMETHING WE'RE
MISSING?



HE'S MY
SON!

RIGHT
NOW, NOTHING
MATTERS EXCEPT
THAT CHILD.

EVERYTHING
WE KNOW POINTS
TO CABLE. HE MADE
HIS CHOICE. I'VE
MADE MINE.

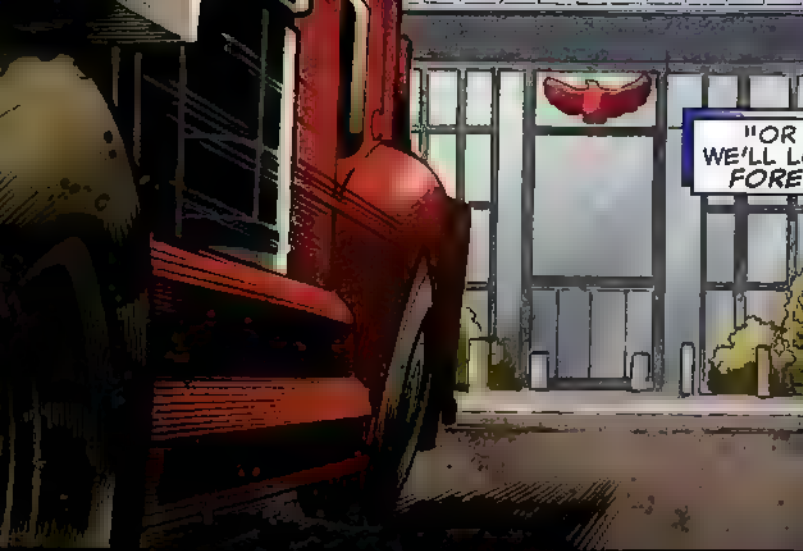




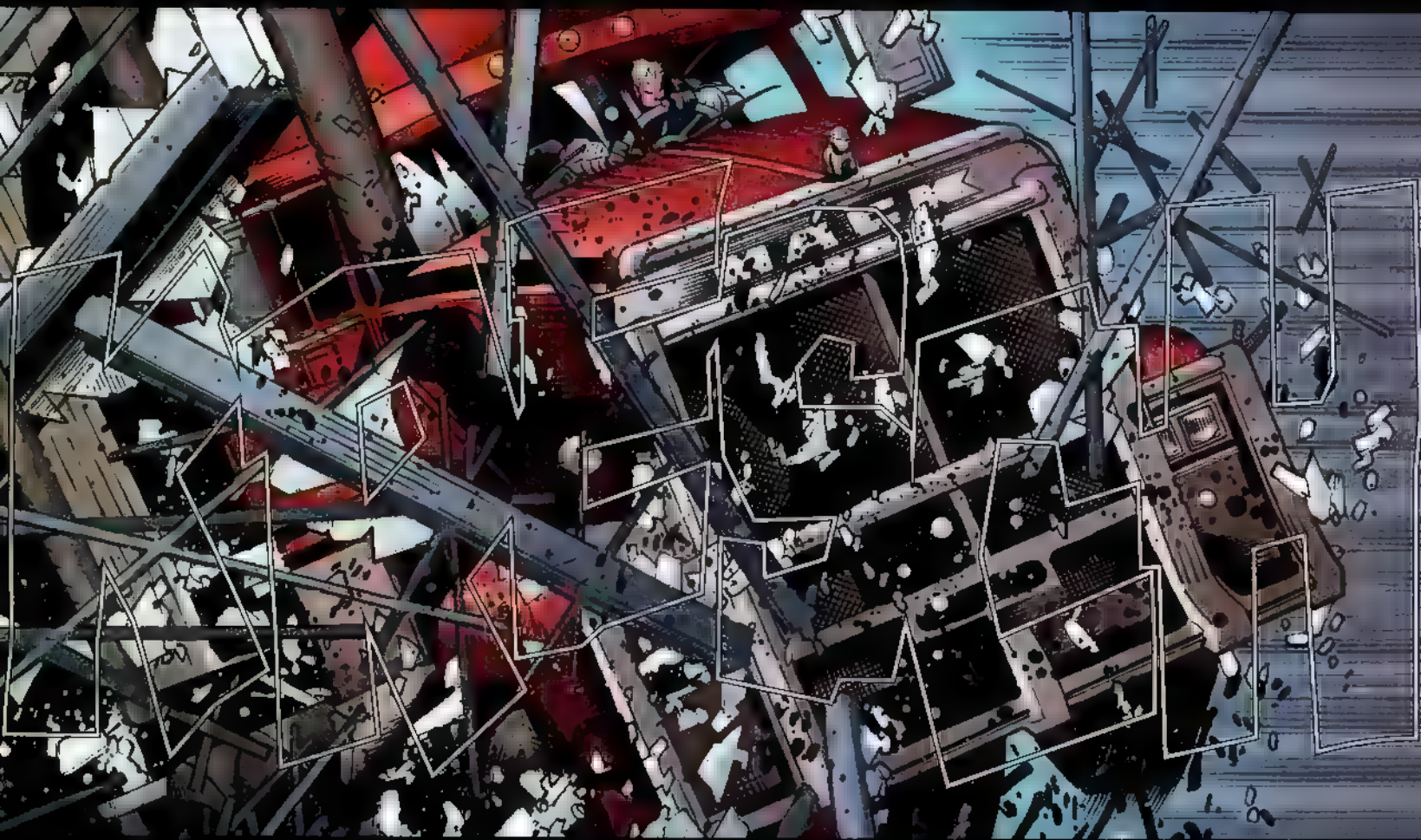
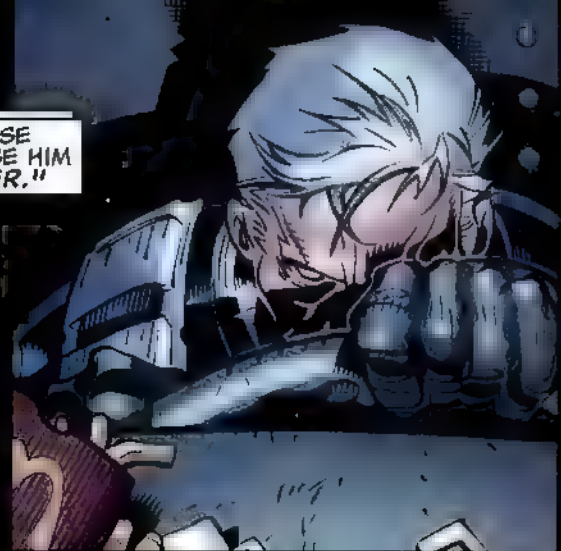
NICE WORK,
DAVID.

NOW LET'S
SEE WHO'S
WHO.





"OR ELSE
WE'LL LOSE HIM
FOREVER."

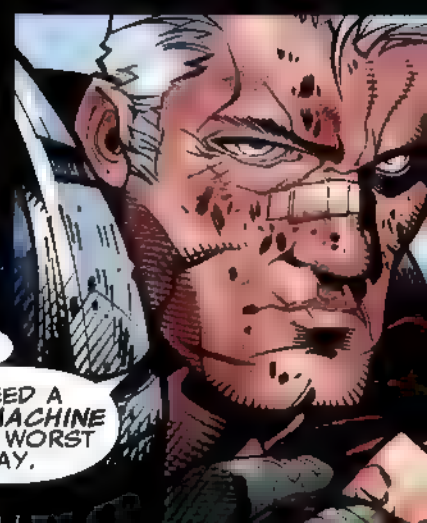


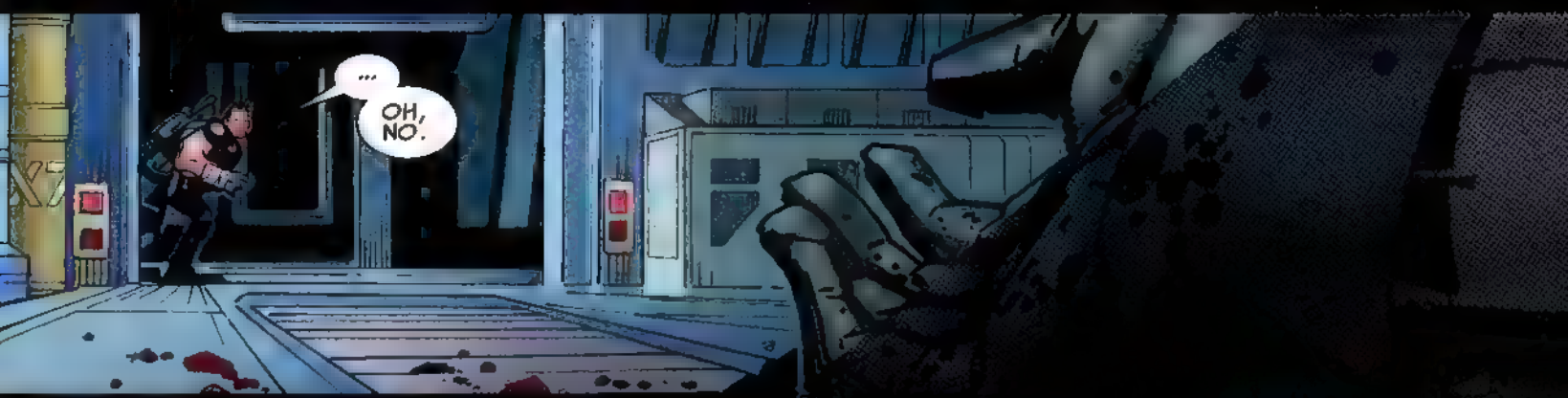
FORGE! I KNOW WHAT
THIS LOOKS LIKE, BUT
I'M NOT HERE TO
FIGHT YOU.

I'M
ASKING
FOR YOUR
HELP.

SERIOUSLY.

I NEED A
TIME MACHINE
IN THE WORST
WAY.







THE FUTURE.

THIS IS YOUR NEW HOME, GENE-JOKE.

COME ON, TAKE A LITTLE LOOK.

YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT HERE.

IT'S KIND OF LIKE A BEACH RESORT.



ONLY, Y'KNOW, WITH LESS SAND.

AND MORE BARBED WIRE.



HE LOOKS A BIT ROUGH.

SO?

SO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DRAG 'IM OVER TO DOC KEEVER?



HEY, LET THE MUTIES TAKE CARE O' THEIR OWN.

MY BREAK STARTS IN FIVE.



WOW THEY
BEAT HIM GOOD.
LET'S GET HIM
TOPSIDE.



IT'S OKAY, MAN. THE
TAT STINGS LIKE BLAZES
FOR THE FIRST FEW
HOURS, BUT AFTER THAT
IT'S OKAY.

'LESS IT GETS
INFECTED.

Y--YOUR
FACE!




WHAT ABOUT MY
FACE? YOU'RE NO
SENSENET PIN-UP
YOURSELF,
MAN.

LET'S
TAKE A LOOK
AT YOU.



YEAH.

YOU'LL
LIVE.



"LEASTWAYS...

"...UNTIL SOMETHIN'
ELSE KILLS YOU."

**TO BE CONTINUED IN
UNCANNY X-MEN 494!**

X-MEN: MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER 10

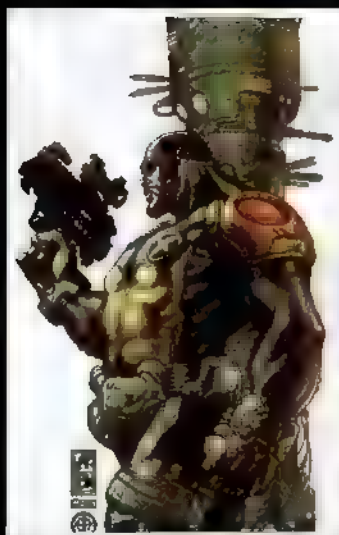


NEXT WEEK

BISHOP'S MOMENT OF TRUTH.

LAYLA AND JAMIE REACH THEIR GOAL.

THE X-MEN ARE DECEIVED FOR THE LAST TIME.



VARIANT COVER

QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS!

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE COMIC CONVENTION EXPERIENCE??



"I walked into a room by mistake and DeForest Kelley was there, waiting to make an appearance. This was, of course, before he died. I guess it would have been more memorable if it had been after..."

- MARC GUGGENHEIM - Writer

(Amazing Spider-Man, Wolverine, Marvel Comics Presents)

"Well, I was mistaken for Jill Thompson once. That was pretty memorable. Admittedly it was in Spain, and the guy who was doing the mistaking had no idea that Jill was a female name. So it's less damning than it sounds, but still, you know... And having Larry Niven come up to me on the booth at SDCC to tell me he enjoyed reading Lucifer. That also sticks in my mind for some reason."

- MIKE CAREY - Writer

(X-Men, Ultimate Fantastic Four)

"I've had a few. I saw two guys get in a fight in front of me one time over who would win, Thor or Hulk. They were actually screaming at each other so my friend and I stopped to watch, because it was hilarious. Then they came to blows and it really wasn't very funny. We were about to break it up when the convention security came and intervened. Then it got funny again as they were screaming "THOR!" and "HULK!" at each other as they were dragged away. That would probably top my list."

- ROBERT KIRKMAN - Writer

(Marvel Zombies II, Ultimate X-Men)

"A San Diego Comic Con, where I was walking through a hotel lobby and came to a halt. Sitting there, not far away, were Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, close into each other, involved in a lengthy and what seemed friendly enough chat. I just stood there and watched these two greats for a few moments, wondering what it was they were discussing, and then went on my way."

- PETER DAVID - Writer

(X-Factor, She-Hulk)

"During my first U.S. Con (Megacon 2000) in Florida, I was standing in the urinals, doing what I went in there for, when I glanced over to my left side. Standing next to me was a Klingon; I turned and there was another to my right. "K'Plah", they both said. "Nice B'atleths," I replied. Of course only Star Trek fans will get the joke and I now have clearly revealed myself to be almost as sad. I did once contemplate buying a Star Trek uniform, but fortunately saw sense before that decision could haunt me for the rest of my life."

- BRYAN HITCH - Artist

(Ultimates, Fantastic Four)

"Drinking warm adult beverages and playing dominoes for hours with Peter "Chewbacca" Mayhew and Jeremy "Boba Fett" Bulloch at DragonCon years back."

- C.B. CEBULSKI - Writer

(Loners, Fairy Tales, Wolverine)

"I was so starstruck and just excited to see one of the biggest guys in comics, Rob Liefeld, a few years back. We had a very brief encounter and he was very nice and all. I was very nervous and awestruck when the goodbyes came and I called him "Todd."

- LEINIL YU - Artist

(New Avengers, Secret Invasion)

"The fateful day I ran into Joss Whedon at the San Diego Comic Con, right as news of Grant Morrison leaving X-Men hit the airwaves."

- JOE QUESADA - Marvel Editor-in-Chief, Artist

(Amazing Spider-Man)

NOW YOU KNOW!

FURY'S FILES

Discovered in a decommissioned S.H.I.E.L.D. safehouse, below is a list of little-known facts about the Amazing Spider-Man that Nick Fury had personally collected to be used or leveraged when necessary.



The Red Skull was responsible for the death of Spider-Man's parents. While Richard and Mary Parker were posing as double agents within his organization, the Red Skull learned of their duplicity and hired an assassin to sabotage their plane.

There have been five Green Goblins and four Hobgoblins.

Unaware of her relation to Spider-Man, Doctor Octopus once tried to marry Aunt May.

Even though she was not a member, the Black Cat was invited to join the Avengers while she was dating Spider-Man.

During the Secret Wars, it was Thor who directed Spider-Man to the computer in which the alien symbiote costume was lurking. Believing that the machine that created a new helmet and cape for the Thunder God had replaced his tattered costume with an advanced synthetic one, Spider-Man did not learn that the new black costume was actually a parasitic living organism until almost a year later, after returning to Earth.

Peter Parker's major in college was Chemistry.

Shortly after gaining his powers, Spider-Man went to the Fantastic Four, asking for a job to help pay the rent. However, after learning that they were a nonprofit organization, he quickly left their headquarters.

To activate his web-shooters, Spider-Man must double-tap them.

Spider-Man was originally offered membership into the Avengers on the condition that he pass a test which entailed capturing the Hulk. However, when Spidey learned that Bruce Banner was the Hulk, he stopped hunting the green goliath and decided he didn't want to be an Avenger.

Peter Parker once published a book of photos he took of Spider-Man over the years called "WEBS!"

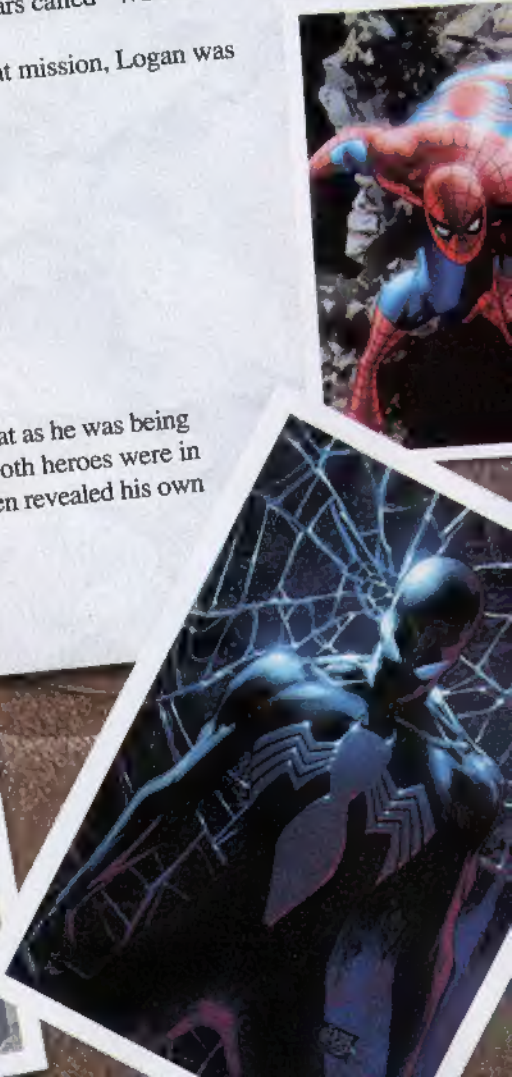
Wolverine teamed up with Peter Parker's parents before Peter's birth. During that mission, Logan was the first person to congratulate Mary on her pregnancy.

Four former ESU professors have gone on to become villains of Spider-Man:

1. Miles Warren - The Jackal
2. Curt Connors - The Lizard
3. Clifton Shallot - Vulture III
4. Buck Mitty - Humbug

Spider-Man and the Human Torch meet up every Christmas Day.

Daredevil learned Spider-Man's secret identity when he recognized his heartbeat as he was being confronted by an angry Peter Parker outside of the courthouse. Later, when both heroes were in costume, Daredevil admitted that he knew Spider-Man's secret identity and then revealed his own to the shocked webslinger.



LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

AWARD-WINNING COMIC BOOK WRITER BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

MARVEL: You got "Freaky Friday" (Spidey & Wolverine switched bodies) and now "Amazing Friends" (Spidey teams up with Iceman and Firestar) green-lit. Are there any stories in Ultimate Spider-Man that you've pitched that have been rejected?

BRIAN BENDIS: I'm trying to think. I have a pretty good sense of what won't get the green light so I try not to climb a hill I know can't be climbed. I do have a rather controversial story coming some time next year that got a tentative green light, but it was a hard sell. We'll see if it makes the light of day.

MARVEL: We're coming out of a very dark time in the lives of Pete and his supporting cast. Will this be a lighthearted story or is there more to this than the surface seems to suggest?

BRIAN BENDIS: Yeah, we tend to bounce back and forth with stuff like this. It is much lighter than the death of the Goblin, but it's still an important story for the series.

MARVEL: You seem to have a childlike glee regarding this story. How long has this been in the works?

BRIAN BENDIS: It was in my first ever "list of things

to do" when I got the book back in 1999. Followed by a note to myself saying: "How the @#\$% can you pull that off?" It took 118 issues to get the pieces in order.

MARVEL: We've met Iceman before, but not Firestar. Is she someone new or someone we've already met?

BRIAN BENDIS: She is someone we have met... BUT NOW SHE IS ON FIRE!

MARVEL: Were you a fan of the Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends cartoon from the 1980's?

BRIAN BENDIS: Oh yeah. There were some episodes, if memory serves, that were far superior in quality of animation than others. I was a really big fan of those.

MARVEL: Will Ms. Lion be making her long-overdue appearance in the Ultimate Universe?

BRIAN BENDIS: Sadly, that would be a no.

MARVEL: Is this going to be an ongoing team-up or a one-time thing?

BRIAN BENDIS: Probably a one-time thing as Jeph Loeb is going to blow up the Ultimate Universe in a few months.

MARVEL: Will they fight Videoman? (Editor's Note — In the animated series, Videoman was a villain created from an arcade game...seriously.)

BRIAN BENDIS: I thought about it, but decided that Magneto is the better choice in relation to me keeping my job.

MARVEL: Have you ever moved someone's football statue just to see if the room would change into a super-duper high-tech hangout?

BRIAN BENDIS: Other than Joe Quesada's? No.

MARVEL: You're working on one of the longest runs on a single-character title in history, and yet you've managed to bring things forward that you planted the seeds for years ago. Are there other subplots boiling just under the surface that fans should keep their eyes on?

BRIAN BENDIS: Well, right after "Amazing Friends," we have a couple of one-shot stories that pay off some characters in a pretty big way. Then after that we are adapting and expanding on the Ultimate Spider-Man story from the video game we did, so now it will fit in continuity perfectly.

MARVEL: How far out DO you have this book plotted?

BRIAN BENDIS: I'm honestly well into the 140's. I'm scripting issue 126 now.

'Nuff Said!



QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS!

WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS THINK ABOUT YOU READING COMIC BOOKS WHEN YOU WERE A KID?



"They were always happy to see me reading. I think they figured that my interest would flag eventually and I'd leave comics behind. That didn't happen. When I was a teenager, my father gave me advice that I'll always remember: He said, "Your hobbies are fine, but you can't make a living out of science fiction and comic books."

- PETER DAVID – Writer
(X-Factor, She-Hulk)

"My mother introduced me to comics, and would buy them for me by the box. Of course, back then they sold them in the local grocery store. She still thinks my collection is going to make me rich one day."

- CHRIS YOST – Writer
(New X-Men, X-Force)

"They were very supportive about anything that had me reading, but were concerned that words like "mayhem," "archenemy," and "clobbering time" were frequently working their way into my vocabulary."

- DAN SLOTT – Writer
(Avengers: The Initiative, Amazing Spider-Man)

"I think it was keenly encouraged as long as I didn't spend my life at it. My then Head Teacher told my parents at Careers and Vocations day that I would doodle my way into the unemployment line and I think they agreed."

- BRYAN HITCH – Artist
(Ultimates, Fantastic Four)

"My mom knew I'd never grow up to be a rocket scientist, or any kind of scientist for that matter, so she always encouraged me to invest in my creative interest. Cartoons were my first love and comics became my close second. She and my grandparents helped me amass quite a collection, sadly, one I would sell many years later for very little money... God, I miss those books."

- CRAIG KYLE – Writer
(New X-Men, X-Force)

"They didn't mind as long as it didn't interfere with anything else... like school work."

- JOHN ROMITA Jr. – Artist
(World War Hulk, Amazing Spider-Man)

"They completely supported my addiction! I was a voracious reader to begin with, and burying my nose in comics just gave me more to read and kept me out of their hair longer. Made it easy to shop for my birthday and Christmas too, as comics and Star Wars toys were all I ever wanted."

- C.B. CEBULSKI – Writer
(Loners, Fairy Tales, Wolverine)

"They thought it was a bad influence on me, not understanding that it was comics that taught me how to read, and gave me a sense of morality and ethics that I carry to this day. They thought comics were a distraction from my school work. I, on the other hand, treasured my comics. I kept them in a tin box to protect them from the environment, stacked front-to-back-to-back the way you're supposed to, to keep them from bending up. I had complete runs from issue one of everything from X-Men to Journey into Mystery and Thor and Amazing Spider-Man and Daredevil and Conan and Eerie and Creepy and on and on and on, all in pristine condition, not because I thought they'd be worth something someday, but because I liked keeping them that way. So one day, when my grades weren't sufficiently high, my father sat down across from me, opened the tin box, and one by one, tore up every single one of my comics as I looked on. 'This is for your own good,' he said. 'You'll never make a living from comics, you know.'

- J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI – Writer
(Thor, The Twelve, Amazing Spider-Man)

"I don't think that my dad really cared, because my older half-brother (Hi David!) was hugely into reading comics. My mom, on the other hand, was a completely different story... she hated it. She thought I was wasting my time until I said something about buying all my manwha (Korean comics) so that I could learn to read Korean faster, and learn more Korean words that way. It was like I had to throw some educational spin on it all. I hid all the American and Japanese stuff for a while, till she finally got over it a few years later and gave up, then I covered my room in the stuff."

- CHRISTINA STRAIN – Colorist
(World War Hulk, Runaways)

NOW YOU KNOW!

LUCKY
SCAN

"IT'S TOASTED"

D C P

S C A N